

Weekly Column for March 31, 2005

Finally, I think it is okay to put away your gloves and snowbrushes, because spring has sprung, as they say. The clock outside of First Niagara said 61 degrees around 1 p.m. today. That was wonderful to see.

Today's column will be a hodgepodge of items, starting with the Hudson Valley Eagles. It may be getting warm out, but the hockey team that plays its games at the Knickerbacker Ice Rink took a flight to Minnesota this morning to play for the Junior National Hockey Championships. Not many people know about this team, which actually has six players from Troy on it, but they'll be hearing a lot more about them should they get a few wins this weekend. We wish them the best of luck.

Earth Day is coming up soon, as I mentioned last week. All the action will take place on the weekend of April 30th, and should again be a great time for all involved. If you'd like to start a project, please contact Jeff Buell at 270-4554. Or, if you're interested in teaming up with another project, please check the local newspaper for an updated list of projects and people to call.

With the impending good weather, we decided to change around some of the parking obstacles in downtown to make it easier for visitors to get out and walk around. Beginning today, we removed 10-metered spots in the State Street Parking Garage and replaced them with ten-free two-hour parking spots. We're also thinking of doing this in the Congress Street/5th Avenue lot in a few weeks. In an effort to ensure that people don't abuse the two-hour spots, we're also adding an additional parking enforcement officer.

We're also planning on beautifying the State Street garage, a project that actually began today. If we can get people to start parking in there on weekends, it will open up the streets that much more.

Finally this week, I'm pleased to announce that we have been awarded two grants from New York State to help in our Riverfront development. North Central received a grant for \$50,000 and South Troy received an \$86,750 award. That is great news all around.

Have a wonderful week, don't forget to set your clocks ahead, and don't play too many mean April Fool's Day jokes.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy